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**ALLARD & UDALL INTRODUCE ROCKY  
FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE BILL  
LEGISLATION WILL PRESERVE AREA FROM DEVELOPMENT  
FOLLOWING CLEANUP AND CLOSURE**

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Colorado Second District U.S. Representative Mark Udall today announced they have introduced The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2000, bipartisan legislation which would turn Rocky Flats into a national wildlife refuge once the site is cleaned up and closed. The bill is also being co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) and Colorado U.S. Representatives Tom Tancredo, Diana DeGette, Joel Hefley, Bob Schaffer, and Scott McInnis.

“Today, we begin to write a new chapter in the history of Rocky Flats,” Allard said. “This legislation will transform Rocky Flats. We will see Rocky Flats move from being an active nuclear weapons plant into an active refuge for wildlife and wild flowers in less than two decades. An accomplishment no-one thought possible.”

“This bill is the product of months of work with local officials, citizens and other stakeholders at Rocky Flats. We are in effect turning weapons into wildlife. This bill would protect one of the last remaining open space opportunities along the Front Range, and at the same time, keep us on track for cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats,” said Udall.

The legislation would convert Rocky Flats into a national wildlife refuge only after the site has been cleaned up and closed. The bill maintains federal ownership of the property, requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to continue clean up at the site, directs that the refuge designation cannot be used to affect cleanup and will not reduce the level of funds allocated for clean up work at Rocky Flats.

“Our primary goal remains and will continue to remain the safe cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats,” added Allard. “Nothing in this bill affects the on-going cleanup at Rocky Flats.”

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“In the past, Rocky Flats has been off-limits to development because it was a weapons plant. That era is over – and now we are left with the opportunity to protect and maintain the outstanding natural and open-space resources of this key part of Colorado’s mountain backdrop. I look forward to working in Congress with the rest of the delegation to pass this legislation,” Udall said.

The legislation was put together by Allard and Udall over the past year in consultation with local elected officials, environmental groups and community leaders.

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